

THE ROOTS
OF KING
TUTANKHAMUN



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By
Arthur Wallace
Audrey Ford

LL COMPANY
Los Angeles, California 90024
1980

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 1647 Manning Avenue
 Los Angeles, California 90024

Lithographed in USA
 Publishers Press
 Salt Lake City, Utah

Cartouches of Tutankhamun (Nebkheprure was his king name) left and center, and of Ankhesenamun right. His titles above, "Good God, Lord of the Two Lands" and "Son of Re, Lord of the Diadems." Wishes for each are underneath. "To be given life forever and ever" for him, and "To be given life and be fruitful" for her.



XVIIIth Dynasty 1330-1570
 B. C.

XVIIth Dynasty 1570-1650
 B. C.

Hyksos Period 1555-1700
 B. C.

The Middle Empire 1700-
 2100 B. C.

Old Kingdom 2100-2780
 B. C.

THE ROOTS OF KING TUTANKHAMUN

The mystery and intrigue of the ancient Egyptian boy King Tutankhamun continue to fascinate the world. Fifty-five objects of art from his tomb have completed their tour of the United States—to Washington D. C. , Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Seattle, New York City, and San Francisco where millions have stood in line and sometimes paid scalpers prices to get a glimpse of the glory of Ancient Egypt.

The number fifty-five was chosen because 1977 was the 55th anniversary of the discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon in 1922. Over 5,000 objects from the tomb are in the Cairo Museum today, but the mummy itself is still in the tomb in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor in Upper Egypt. In the Cairo Museum a sheet of paper written in Arabic marks the place for each of the fifty-five missing pieces. The papers are so far apart that they are hardly noticed.

Tutankhamun reigned near the end of Ancient Egypt's XVIIIth dynasty, which lasted from about 1570 to 1330 B. C. This and the earlier XIIIth dynasty were probably the most glorious periods of Ancient Egypt. But this XVIIIth dynasty was weakened and about to



TETISHERI (19)

Chief Wife of Sekenere II (20)

Mother of Sekenere III (18)

SEKENERE II (20)

Descendant of Kings of the
XVIIIth Dynasty

Ruled about 1600 B. C. or
earlier

Father of Sekenere III (18)

Md. Chief Wife Tetisheri
(19)

give way to another when Tutankhamun began his rule at the tender age of nine.

Most people have trouble with the pronunciation of the name, so the boy king is usually referred to as "King Tut" for short. The name "Tutankhamun" is rather simple and is easy to remember when broken down into its three component parts. "Tut" stands for a line of his ancestors, the Thutmoses (pronounced Tutmose). "ankh" is an ancient Egyptian symbol of Key of Life which indicates eternal life. A king or pharaoh received this key from the gods in daily temple ritual. "Amun" was the name of the Great God of Thebes, one of the more important gods of Ancient Egypt. The name "Tutankhamun" implies that the boy was of royal blood and was looked upon as a god on earth.

The historical identity of Tutankhamun is a big riddle. An understanding of the nature of Ancient Egypt of his time is essential to being able to guess some of the answers.

Egypt, during the XVIIIth dynasty, was a place of beautiful gardens and cities. Due to conquests of other nations early in the dynasty, the country was prosperous; gold and marble were freely used in construction. The population was small, but slave labor provided sufficient work forces to maintain luxury.



SEKENERE III (18)

Ruled 1575 B. C.

Md. Queen Ahotep I

Parents of both Ahmose (16)
and Amos-Nofretari (17)

Son of Sekenere II (20) and
Tetisheri (19)



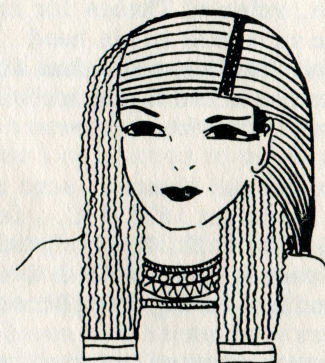
AHMOSE-AMOSE (16)

Ruled 1570-1546 B. C.

Son of Sekenere III (18)
and Queen Ahotep I

Md. his full-blood sister
Amos-Nofretari (17)

Father of Amenhotep I (15)



AMOS-NOFRETARI (17)

Daughter of Sekenere III (18)
and Ahotep I

Chief Wife of Ahmose-
Amose (16)

Mother of Amenhotep I (15)



AMENHOTEP I (15)
Ruled 1546-1526 B.C. Son of
Ahmose (16) and Amos-Nofretari
(17). Md. his two sisters—
Queen Ahotep II & Queen Merita-
man. Md. non-royal Senseneb.
Father of Thutmose I (14)

In about 1575 B.C. prior to the beginning of the dynasty, King Sekenere, ruler of Thebes for forty years, was murdered with at least two axwounds in his head. The wounds show in his mummy which is in the Cairo Museum at this time. The hated Hyksos from Palestine had ruled Egypt for 150 years, and anti-Hyksos forces were involved in the murder.

Kamose and Ahmose, sons of Sekenere, ruled in succession. Ahmose, in about 1570 B.C., defeated the Hyksos in battle, but was killed himself. His body was mummified and is also in the Cairo Museum. The XVIIIth dynasty began with the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt by Ahmose.

Pharaoh Ahmose married his full-blooded sister Amos-Nofretari as his Great Royal Wife. Such consanguineous marriages—to blood relatives—were common and related to the theological idea of divine birth of the pharaohs. Men ruled, but succession was through the female line. Any offspring of the Great Royal Wife was considered as literally a child of God.

Ahmose and his sister Amos-Nofretari gave birth to Amenhotep I. Amenhotep I as pharaoh was very religious and added considerably to the temples at Karnak and Luxor. He conducted



THUTMOSE I (14) was a General.
Ruled 1525-1512 B.C. Son of
Amenhotep I (15) & Senseneb.
Md. Crown Princess Ahmose,
half sister to Ahmose (16).
Md. a minor wife.
Father of Thutmose II (13)

some military campaigns into Asia and was the first of many pharaohs to be buried in the Valley of the Kings where Tutankhamun was later buried.

Thutmose I, born to Amenhotep I and a minor wife Senseneb, became a pharaoh at age 23. He ruled by virtue of his marriage to the royal heiress Crown Princess Ahmose, who became his Great Royal Wife. The armies of Thutmose I conquered to the Euphrates River.

The Great Royal Wife of Thutmose I gave birth to a daughter named Hatshepsut, who married her half-brother Thutmose II, son of Thutmose I and a minor wife. The reign of Thutmose II was a clash between himself and his wife Queen Hatshepsut who really claimed the kingship by virtue of her birth to Thutmose I and his Great Royal Wife. Since Thutmose II was born of a minor wife, Queen Hatshepsut considered herself more important than he, as she had the "divine birth" through her mother.

Upon the death of Thutmose II, Thutmose III, a son of Thutmose II and a common wife Isis, shared the throne with his stepmother Queen Hatshepsut. One of the wives of Thutmose III was a daughter of Hatshepsut, but Thutmose III never liked this wife who was his half-sister.

THUTMOSE II (13)

Ruled 1512-1504 B.C.

Son of Thutmose I (14) &
minor wife

Md. minor wife in 1515
B.C.

Md. Hatshepsut (12), his
half sister.



Father of Thutmose III (10)
and Myrt-Ra Hatshepsut

HATSHEPSUT (12)

Ruled 1496-1481 B.C.
Daughter of Thutmose I (14)
and Crown Princess Ahmose
Mother of Myrt-Ra Hatshepsut
Md. Thutmose II (13)

ISIS (11)

Common wife of
Thutmose II (13)
Mother of Thutmose III (10)

Thutmose III and Queen Hatshepsut reigned jointly for about fifteen years, but the stepmother queen was in command. She even dressed and wore a beard like a man. She sent peaceful commercial expeditions out into the world. She also embarked on a great building program of monuments and temples.

The death of Queen Hatshepsut was possibly hastened by Thutmose III. With her out of the way, he launched into a twenty-year military campaign. He expanded the borders and influence of Egypt beyond that of any other pharaoh. He removed the name of Hatshepsut from the monuments and walled up her obelisks. But Hatshepsut was not obliterated—her daughter Myrt-Ra Hatshepsut and Thutmose III bore a son Amenhotep II, who became the father of Thutmose IV, who in turn was the father of Amenhotep III.

Amenhotep III had a supposed commoner Tiye, daughter of an overseer of horses, chosen to be his Great Royal Wife. She was reported to be of Asiatic, possibly of Semetic or Hebrew extraction. He did marry many other women also. Under the influence of his powerful wife Queen Tiye, their son Amenhotep IV, who later changed his name to Akhenaton, was trained to sponsor a revolution in religious and social ideas. He started a monotheistic religion which shook the very foundations of Ancient Egypt. It was into this turmoil that Tutankhamun was born.



THUTMOSE III (10)
Ruled 1507-1496 B.C. Ruled
1496-1481 B.C. with Hatshepsut
(12). Ruled 1481-1447 B.C.
Son of Thutmose II (13) & minor
wife Isis (11). Md. Myrt-Ra
Hatshepsut, dau. of Hatshepsut
(12) & Thutmose II (13).
Father of Amenhotep II (9).



AMENHOTEP II (9)

Ruled 1450-1425 B.C.

Son of Thutmose III (10)
and Myrt-Ra Hatshepsut

Pharaoh Akhenaton ruled for about 17 years with his Great Royal Wife Nefertiti, also of Asiatic origin like Queen Tiye. Under them the god Amun and other gods were declared illegal, and the son god Aton alone became the deity of Egypt. This move made Akhenaton unpopular, especially after his death. This change was a great threat to the priest class of the day. Akhenaton moved the palace from Thebes to a new city Akhetaton, near modern Tel-El-Amarna. Akhetaton was an architectural marvel. Soon after the death of Akhenaton, the new city was destroyed, however.

Akhenaton and Nefertiti gave birth to six daughters and no sons; however, there seemed to be no real question as to who would succeed to the throne. Before Akhenaton died, he shared the throne with a boy named Smenkhkare. Queen Nefertiti had mysteriously disappeared, and Akhenaton had married his oldest daughter, but later gave her to Smenkhkare. Akhenaton then married his third daughter—the second one had died earlier.

Smenkhkare died in about two years, and another boy Tutankhamun inherited both the throne and the third daughter of Akhenaton and Nefertiti named Ankhesenamun. During the first two years of their reign their names were Tutankhaton and Ankhesenpaaton; however, popular and priestly pressure forced them to change their



MUTEMWIYA (7)

Common wife of

Thutmose IV (8)

Mother of Amenhotep III (6)



THUTMOSE IV (8)

Ruled 1425-1417 B. C.

Son of Amenhotep II (9)

Father of Amenhotep III (6)

Md. Mutemwiya (7)



TIYE (5)

Daughter of Tyia & Yuya
Chief Wife of Amenhotep III (6)
Mother of Akhenaton (4)
Possibly grandmother of
Tutankhamun (1)



AMENHOTEP III (6)

Ruled 1417-1379 B. C. Co-ruled
1379-1367 B. C. Born 1429 B. C.
Son of Thutmose IV (8) and
Mutemwiya (7). Father of
Akhenaton (4). Father or grand-
father of Tutankhamun (1)

names, to give up the sun god Aton, and to return to Thebes to restore the god Amun.

History is not clear as to who the two boys Smenkhkare and Tutankhamun were. Medical tests on their mummies indicate that they were probably full brothers and sons of Amenhotep III. This would make them brothers or half-brothers to Akhenaton, but this may not be true.

There is a monument in the British Museum on which Tutankhamun declared that he restored the monuments of his father Amenhotep III. This, according to the custom of the time, should assure that Amenhotep III was at least an ancestor. Burial lockets found on Tutankhamun indicated parentage of both Amenhotep III and Tiye.

There is no doubt that the boys were part of the royal family and had some claim to the throne which had, however, to be secured by virtue of marriage to one of pharaoh Akhenaton's daughters.

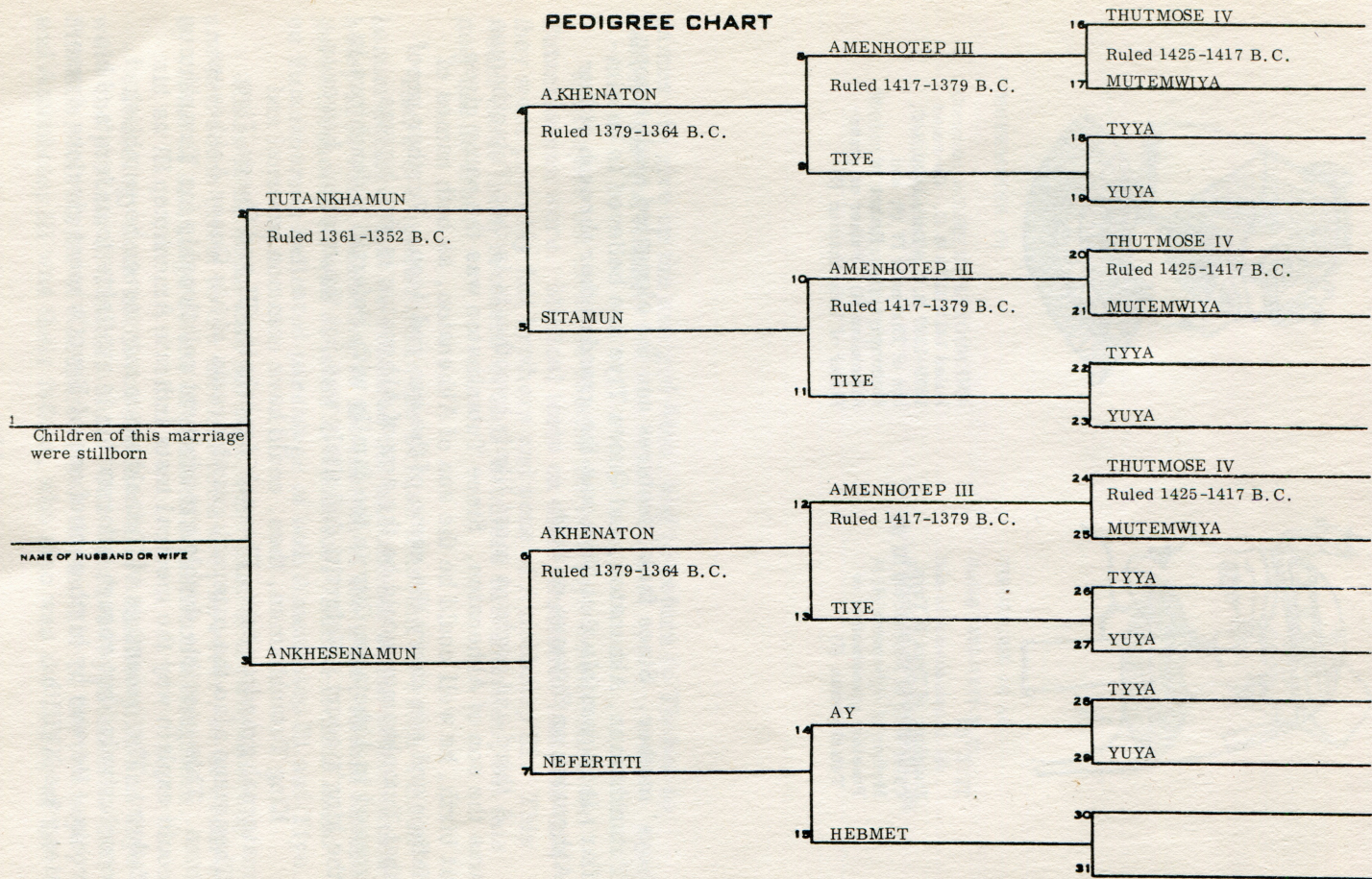
Chronology does not favor the idea that Amenhotep III and Tiye were the parents of Tutankhamun. One alternate hypothesis is that Sitamun, full sister of Akhenaton, was the mother of the two boys, and Amenhotep III was their father, who also was the father of the

boys' mother. Since facial features and the elongated skull among Tutankhamun, Akhenaton, and Queen Tiye are believed to be similar, it is possible that Tiye was the grandmother through either Akhenaton or Sitamun or both.

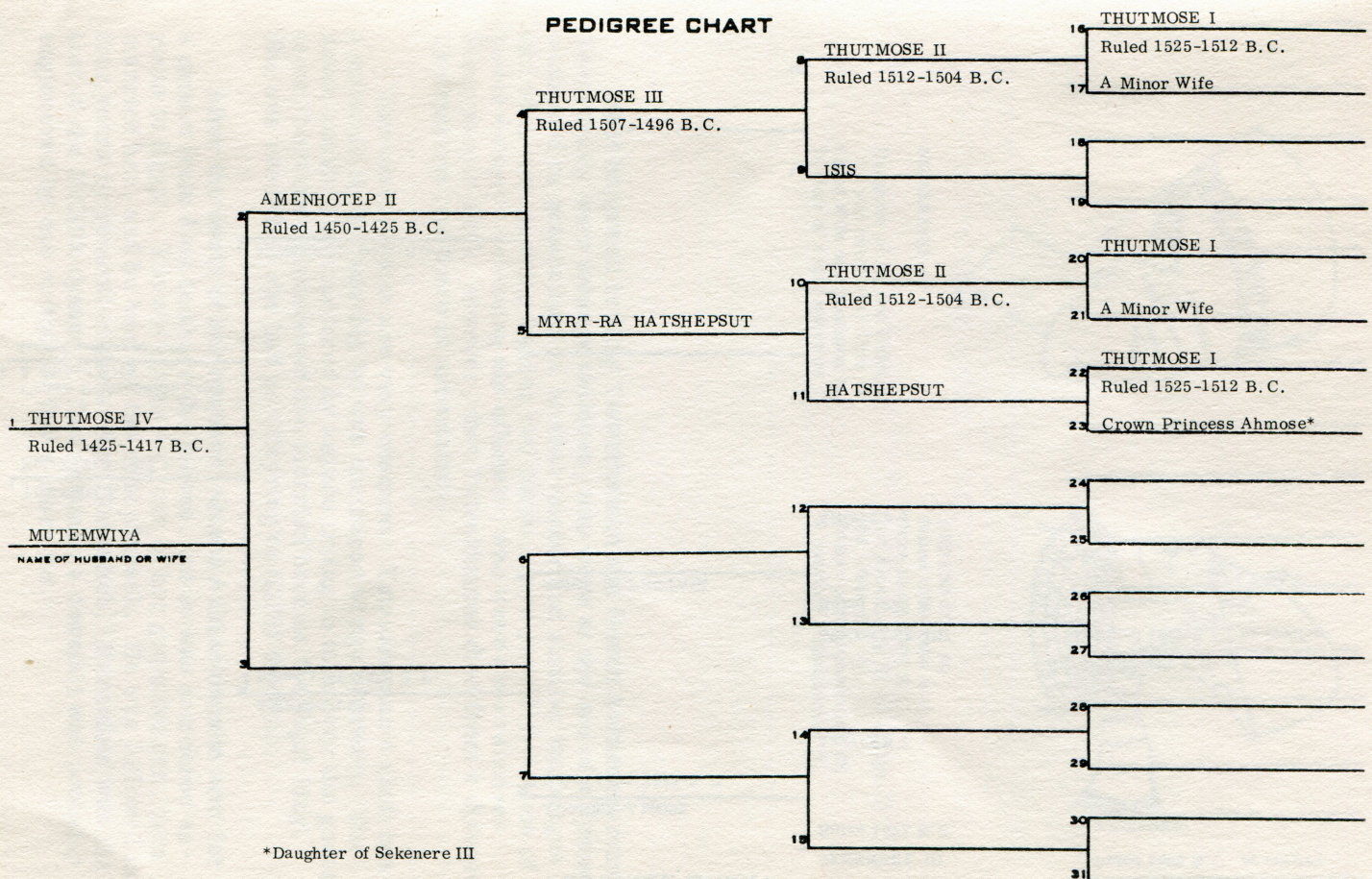
A third and perhaps most likely hypothesis is that Tutankhamun was the son of Akhenaton. Since Tutankhamun was the name given at birth, he well could be the son of Akhenaton, as both names of father and son carry the name of the sun god Aton. Further proof that Tutankhamun could be the son of Akhenaton is that he was reared in Akhetaton City in the family with Nefertiti's daughters in the king's court. Nefertiti definitely was not the mother, however.

King Tutankhamun, then, could have common paternal and maternal grandparents, Pharaoh Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye. They were also the paternal grandparents of his Queen Ankhesenamun. This possible double grandparent relationship for Tutankhamun could explain why the medical tests indicate Amenhotep III as his father. The parentage of Tutankhamun may never be established conclusively, but enough information is available to understand his roots. He was by birth part of one of Egypt's most glorious dynasties, the XVIIIth.

PEDIGREE CHART

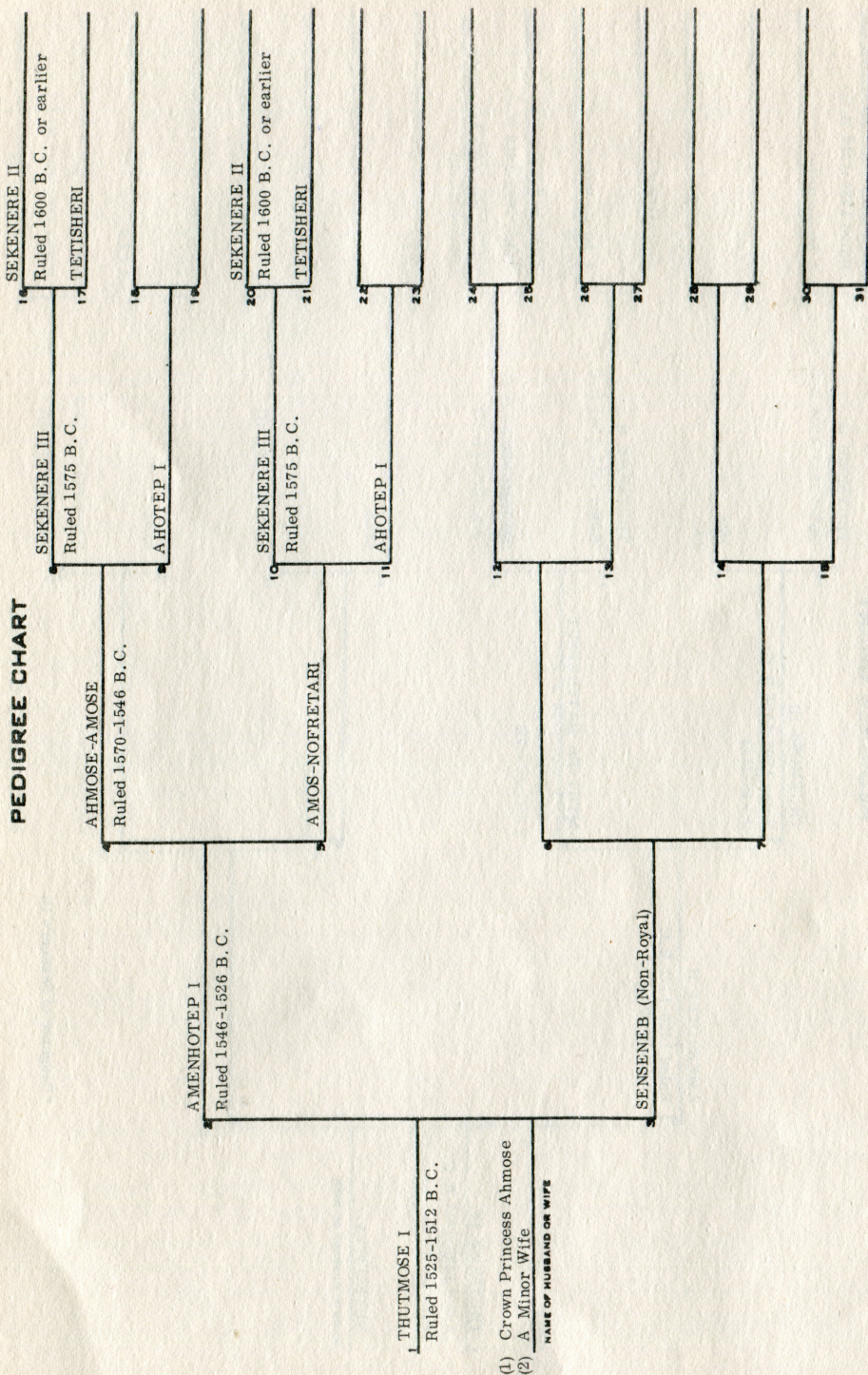


PEDIGREE CHART



*Daughter of Skenere III

PEDIGREE CHART



NEFERTITI (3)

Daughter of Ay and Hehmet
Ay was brother to Tiye (5)
Chief Wife of Akhenaton (4)
Mother of Ankhesenamun (2)



AKHENATON (4)

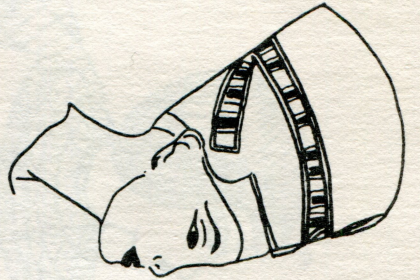
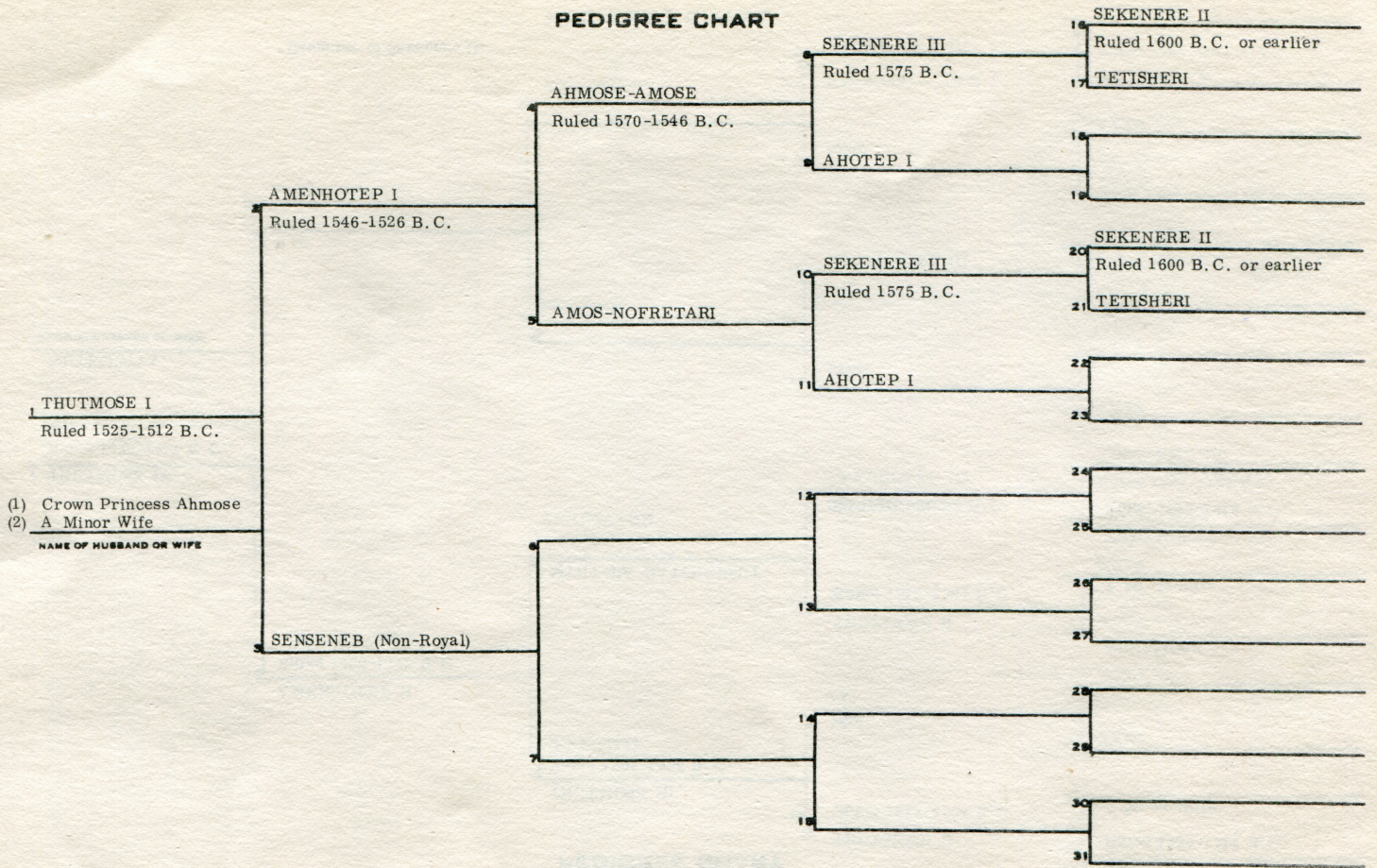
Ruled 1379-1364 B.C.
Born about 1400 B.C.
Son Amenhotep III (6) & Tiye (5)
Md. Nefertiti (3)
Father of Ankhnesenamun (2)
& possibly Tutankhamun (1)

What happened to King Tutankhamun and Queen Ankhesenamun? Two royally born teenage children, who were at the end of a dynasty weakened by generations of brother-sister and similar marriages and who were serving as king and queen, were possibly victims of power-hungry, scheming old officials, who were also relatives. Some people think, however, that Tutankhamun died from a disease like malaria, so there is uncertainty.

The exact details are very obscure. Tutankhamun's skull has a crack in it, so possibly he was murdered at age nineteen. The queen couldn't be murdered by anyone trying to take over the government, because whomsoever she married became the legal king. She was needed as she had no offspring to fulfill the role.

After the death of her husband, Queen Ankhesenamun sent for a prince from Asia to share the throne, but he was murdered en-route to Egypt. The old visier Ay, one of her grandfathers, then married her, and he became the next pharaoh. He was followed in four years by general of the army, Horemheb. Horemheb was the last of the XVIIIth dynasty. Tutankhamun's downfall was probably engineered by one or both of these pharaohs.

PEDIGREE CHART



NEFERTITI (3)

Daughter of Ay and Hehmet
Ay was brother to Tiye (5)
Chief Wife of Akhenaton (4)
Mother of Ankhnesenamun (2)



AKHENATON (4)
D-1-1 1070 1084

Ruled 1379-1364 B.C.
 Born about 1400 B.C.
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TUTANKHAMUN (1)

Ruled 1361-1352 B. C.
Born 1370 B. C.
Son of Akhenaton (4) or
Amenhotep III (6)
Md. Ankhesenamun (2)

ANKHESENAMUN (2)

Daughter of Akhenaton (4)
and Nefertiti (3)
Chief Wife of
Tutankhamun (1)

King Tutankhamun was at the end of a long line of famous ancestors. The Thutmoses and Amenhoteps conquered much of the known world. Famous women were in his family tree. Nefertiti was his stepmother. Queen Tiye and Pharaoh Amenhotep III were probably double grandparents to him. Huge statues of this couple are seen as one enters the Cairo Museum, and a picture of one of these statues is featured on the present-day Egyptian pound money bill.

Queen Hatshepsut was Tutankhamun's great great great great grandmother. Queen Ahmose-Nofretari was his great eight times grandmother. She was revered as a great goddess for generations. Queen Tetisheri was his great ten times grandmother. These queens were among the most important and powerful women of the ancient world.

Tutankhamun had impressive roots, but by the time he was born the XVIIIth dynasty had lost its strength through many generations of brother-sister, father-daughter relative marriages and births.



Horemheb conducts the "opening of the mouth" ceremony for the mummified King Tutankhamun. Then Nut, goddess of the sky and mother of Osiris, receives him as her son. Finally Orisis embraces him and his ka (spirit double). Hieroglyphs proclaim that Tutankhamun has been given "life forever and ever." From a drawing of the tomb.